

Serial Number: 10/849,505  
OA dated December 13, 2004  
Amdt. dated March 14, 2005

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct several apparent typographical errors and/or to improve its presentation. Claim 1-9, 33, 34 and 41 have been amended to obviate the examiner's objections thereto and/or to further clarify the concepts of the present invention. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 9. In addition, claim 17 has been cancelled. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, review and appropriate revision of the entire specification were requested. As indicated above, the specification has been amended to correct several apparent typographical errors and/or to improve its presentation.

Claims 2-9 and 34 were objected to as being informal and a suitable amendment to these claims was suggested. In response to this objection, the noted claims has been amended as suggested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 41 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Adiletta. In making this rejection, it was asserted that the Adiletta patent teaches the entire separator as set forth in claims 1-8 and the entire capacitor as set forth in claim

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41. Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the above claim amendments and the following comments is respectfully requested.

As mentioned above, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowed claim 9. Thus, it is submitted that the subject rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allowance of independent claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon over the cited Adiletta patent are respectfully requested.

Claims 33-37 and 81 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese patent publication 7-29560. In making this rejection, it was asserted that the cited patent publication teaches the entire separator as set forth in claims 33-37 and the entire method as set forth in claim 81. Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the above claim amendments and the following comments is respectfully requested.

It is submitted that the cited Japanese patent publication does not teach or suggest the present invention as defined in independent claims 33 and 81 and the claims dependent thereon. It is a feature of the subject invention that the electrolyte solution comprises a hydrophilic organic solvent and aromatic fibers are used as a main component of the separator as set forth in amended claim 33. This feature contributes to the improvement of wettability by only dispersing the inorganic compound between the fibers.

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A separator having this feature is quite different from the sealed lead acid battery as disclosed in the cited Japanese patent publication.

For the reasons stated above, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allowance of claims 33-37 and 81 over the cited patent publication are respectfully requested.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Adiletta. In making this rejection, it was asserted that the Adiletta patent teaches the separator as set forth in the claim except for the recited surface density. In view of the cancellation of claim 17 herein, it is submitted that this rejection is moot and withdrawal is therefore requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claim 9 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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